

13. (Currently amended) A processor-implemented computer program ^{being executable by a processor} product for use in searching a database, comprising:

database control means for controlling the transfer of a document file to and from a database; and

search means for referencing the ~~data file~~ index file retaining information that specifies a document file which includes a keyword containing a character string and information indicating a correspondence to the keyword according to a field in the document file, the document file including the keyword and transmitting information specifying the document file where the character string appears in the field to the database control means;

wherein the index file comprises a key file that includes a list of pointers to character strings and positional information;

wherein the character strings are included in the document file and are stored in the database by document area where a character string in the document file appears and by a positional information file;

wherein the positional information file includes a list of positional information containing information that specifies the document file where a character string exists and information that specifies a position of the character string in the document file regarding the character string in the key file; and

wherein for a variable-length chain included in the index file, a relational file is created by dividing each word in the variable-length chain into a plurality of fixed-length keywords.

being executable by a processor

14. (Currently amended) A computer program product ^{being executable by a processor} having a plurality of executable instruction codes stored on a computer-usable medium, for use in searching a database, comprising:

a set of instruction codes for receiving an input of a search expression that contains a search term made of a given character string and field information specifying a field in a document file where the search term appears;

a set of instruction codes for referencing ~~a data file~~ an index file stored in memory and retaining information indicating a correspondence of information that specifies said document file to the keyword according to a field in said document file;

a set of instruction codes for specifying a keyword corresponding to said search expression that comprises said field information;

a set of instruction codes for acquiring information specifying a document file including the specified keyword; and

a set of instruction codes for outputting the information acquired by referencing said ~~data file~~ index file as a search result;

wherein the index file comprises a key file that includes a list of pointers to character strings and positional information;

wherein the character strings are included in the document file and are stored in the database by document area where a character string in the document file appears and by a positional information file;

wherein the positional information file includes a list of positional information containing information that specifies the document file where a character string exists and information that specifies a position of the character string in the document file regarding the character string in the